

2022 Real Estate Awards: Shelden Architecture

May 20, 2022

ARCHITECT FIRM

SHELDEN ARCHITECTURE

Describe the main focus of your company's business:

Serving our clients well and interpreting their dream into beautiful spaces, whether that is a commercial office building, medical clinic, worship space or something else. We want to make the world beautiful. This goes beyond simply the way our projects look, our focus is our client. For us, the most successful project is one that has our client's individuality and personal values clearly delivered in the built environment.



The staff of Shelden Architecture dressed for its 2021 company Christmas card.

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What led to your company's success in 2021? It starts with great clients, and a collaborative effort between them, us, and our consultants. Communication is the starting point for any successful project. Our goal is always to walk alongside our client throughout the project, being their advocate throughout the process. We want to lead as a partner, always keeping in focus who our client is, what they do and that it's their project.

What are the three best things about working at your company? Great Opportunities, Great Culture, and Great Coffee.

Describe the values your company operates from. To start with, we believe in the relentless pursuit of client satisfaction. We believe that every project is an opportunity to develop a long-term relationship with our clients. By constantly delivering on what we promise and adhering to our values, we forge long-term relationships that provide ongoing opportunities to work together. We love what we are called to be and do as designers; it's a fun calling, and we want that attitude to bring a smile to everyone's face. After all, we are here to "Make Life Beautiful." We want this to shine through to our clients, the communities we serve and each member of the SA team. Those values are: **Empathy.** We place ourselves in the shoes of those we design for as well as those who construct our designs. This makes us uniquely effective advocates for our clients' objectives. We understand that we are here to serve others, not ourselves. **Inspiration.** We provide vision and light to our client's dreams. Sometimes this is very focused with narrow parameters; other times we stretch what is possible. We want our clients to feel that when they plant the seed of their idea in our soil, they'll reap more than what was sown: more options, more solutions, more

inspiration. **Excellence.** We strive for excellence in design that captures imaginations, transforms organizations, and brings return on capital investments. In addition, great design reinvigorates, reinvents, and conserves resources. SA cultivates the power of design through talent, experience, technical expertise, and innovative processes. Our goal is to weave together beauty, function, and permanence. **Collaboration.** We collaborate across the full stakeholder spectrum, our team, our clients, regulatory authorities, and builders join in a fully integrated design process as we discover each project's embedded potential. We cultivate relationships based on trust and respect.

How does your company contribute to the community? We have been fortunate to work alongside innovators who want to see our community raise the bar for excellence. Sheldon Architecture strives to design solutions that create space for culture, entrepreneurial opportunity, and longevity.

What would others be surprised to know about your company? We have at various times had employees from four continents working for us in the last five years.

What do you look for when hiring? We look for talent, of course, but we also look for team members who model the traits of the "Ideal Team Player" – humble, hungry, and smart. Humble towards our internal teammates and consultants, toward our clients and the stakeholders and toward our community at large. Hungry, meaning driven toward excellence in what they do, driven to see others excel and want the best for all involved. And Smart, in relational intelligence, understanding other points of view and passionate to learn.

What is the biggest challenge your company currently faces? The A/E industry as a whole is facing significant challenges currently with the tight supply of building materials and talent. We are currently in a growth mode, so finding talented, experience team members is another challenge.

When it comes to your company, what are you most proud of? We are proud of our people and the culture we have here at the firm. We genuinely care about one another and want to see each person succeed. We are equally proud of our client relationships. We are blessed to have so many clients over the past 20 years who continue to invest their trust and ideas with us. Of course, we are always striving to build new relationships and add to our client base, but the longevity of our current relationships is a major strength of our firm.